



United States Department of Interior

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LOWER GREAT LAKES FISHERY RESOURCES OFFICE

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT June 2002



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Volunteers

Angela Werth, Jeff Porter, April Scherer, Joe Undercoffer, Mike Brenner, Karly Wood, Mike Jurla, Sarah Guancial

GREAT LAKES BASIN ECOSYSTEM TEAM

Sandra and Chris participated in a conference call of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem Team Executive Committee (6/17). Discussions focused on developing a process to solicit kitty fund proposals and award funding.

LAKE ONTARIO

Chris and Maureen conducted biomonitoring surveys (6/7, 13) at the Lake Ontario nearshore and offshore sites. This multi-agency program focuses on monitoring lower trophic level variables to characterize long-term ecosystem change.

LAKE ERIE

Mike W. attended a meeting of the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) Committee Working Group in Buffalo, NY (6/11-12). Presentations and discussion focused on Lake Erie habitat and species-specific issues, and future action items to promote the LaMP.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Coordination

Sandra participated in a conference call of the Regional Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinators (6/4). Progress reports were given on several nation-wide initiatives including the education campaign, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point training, and re-authorization of the National Invasive Species Act.

Erie Canal

Sandra and Mike S. drafted and revised text for the brochure, *The Erie Canal and Introduced Species*. All images and text were forwarded to Regional Office External Affairs staff for layout and printing. Development of the brochure was approved at both regional and national levels.

Round Goby

Mike S. conducted surveys to estimate the distribution of invasive round goby in several creeks along the south shore of Lake Erie in New York (6/25-28). Surveys were conducted in Eighteenmile Creek, Big Sister Creek,

Chautauqua Creek, Canadaway Creek, Walnut Creek and Silver Creek.

Ruffe

Mike S. conducted ruffe surveillance in Buffalo, NY (6/12), Rochester, NY (6/13), Sandusky, OH (6/17), Toledo, OH (6/18), Cleveland (6/19), Ashtabula, OH and Conneaut, OH (6/20) and Erie, PA (6/21). No ruffe were collected.

HABITAT EVALUATION/RESTORATION

Mike W., Dan, and Zach conducted a survey at a site on Cazenovia Creek in Holland, NY identified by the Erie County and Soil and Water Conservation District (ECSWCD) for restoration (6/7). Data were collected on the Fish and benthic invertebrate communities (focusing on indicator species), water quality, and physical habitat parameters were assessed. Survey results will be forwarded to the ECSWCD for comparison to data from follow-up surveys conducted after project completion.

Mike W. and Zach installed continuously-recording temperature monitors in coastal wetlands along the south shore of the St. Lawrence River (NY) near Goose Bay and its adjacent wetlands (6/19-20). Data will be utilized in a study of the effects of Lake Ontario water management practices on coastal marsh habitat led by the International Joint Commission.

Mike W. and Zach conducted fish community surveys in wetland embayments along the eastern end of Lake Ontario and the south shore of the St. Lawrence River (6/24-27). Wetland areas in Mud, Goose, Perch, and Musky Bays were sampled using 24-hour fyke net sets and boat electrofishing. This project is being conducted in collaboration with researchers from McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, as part of the Great Lakes basin-wide assessment of the health of fish communities in coastal wetlands.

FISH PASSAGE

Chris attended the National Fish Passage Committee meeting in Albuquerque, NM (6/18-20). The meeting focused on the development of national and regional fact sheets for the Service's Fish Passage Program, current and future projects, and policy guidance. The program is a voluntary,

non-regulatory approach to remove and bypass barriers to fish passage.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (FEDERAL LANDS)

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Maureen and Dan conducted Raptor Spot Mapping (6/3, 10, 20). Three Northern Harrier sightings were recorded. Other raptor species observed included red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, and turkey vulture.

GIS AND DATABASE MANAGEMENT

Chris attended the *Managing Shared Waters Conference* in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (6/25-26). The conference provided an international forum to discuss sustainable coastal management and water resources.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Sandra and Rob developed and staffed a display for the *City of Tonawanda Kids Fishing Derby* (6/29). Over 600 children registered and participated in this "youth only" fishing derby. The display featured invasive round goby, the most commonly caught species in the derby.

Sandra initiated an internship program with Williamsville Central School District as part of their Career Exploration Program. Jeff Porter, a student at Williamsville East High School, will be joining the staff of the LGLFRO this summer to participate in various field programs. Jeff will also be expected to develop a poster presentation focused on his volunteer experience.

OTHER

Mike W., Dan, and Zach assisted in the construction of a public fishing area on an impoundment at Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Pennsylvania as part of a project to introduce the public to angling opportunities on the Service's refuges (6/4-6).

Kofi attended the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's annual meeting in Chicago, IL (6/4-5).

Kofi attended New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Great Lakes Section meeting in Syracuse, NY (6/18). The meeting was hosted by NYSDEC to discuss fish and wildlife management issues with partner agency staff from U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Kofi met with Dr. Barry Boyer (University of Buffalo) and Mr. Ken Shermann, both members of the Friends of the Buffalo Niagara River, and Jay Burney (Buffalo Niagara Sustainability Council) in Buffalo, NY to discuss partnership opportunities in the Buffalo Niagara region (6/19).

Kofi participated in a conference call with other fisheries project leaders and managers from the Service's Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region to discuss the upcoming report to Congress about the Service's accomplishments under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act (6/21).

This monthly report provides a brief, in-house report on recent activities, issues or events of the Lower Great Lakes Office. Its contents should not be used or cited elsewhere in any way without first contacting our staff. This is to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information.